SUBJECTS.

Dewan's reply.—Government consider that the proposal of the Member to organise an Irrigation Department, separate from the normal Public Works Department, and to place the former under the control of the Director of Agriculture, is not feasible.

16. Grazing grounds for cattle.

Mr. R. Narayana Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara Taluk) suggested that provision might be made for common grazing lands for cattle.

Mr. Varki Thariyan (Member, Vaikam Taluk) urged the necessity of providing grazing grounds for cattle. He said that cattle mortality was due mainly to the want of grazing grounds. The cattle generally deteriorate by being tethered in one place. He also pointed out that, under these circumstances, the breed of cattle could not but degenerate. The Member requested that Gove rnment might provide grazing lands for each taluk.

Dewan's reply.—The question of grazing grounds has been engaging attention. Government recognise that it is an important question.

II. Law, Justice and Police.

17. The desirability of Government directing the Marumakathayee members of the Assembly to hold a special meeting to consider and intimate to Government their views on the recommendations of the Marumakathayam Committee.

Mr. P. Kesava Pillai (Member, Quilon Taluk) said that the Committee, in their report, had proposed several changes affecting the existing family law of the Marumakathayees. Some of these proposals had the general approval of the community. Regarding the rest, there existed considerable difference of opinion. It would be well therefore to know whether the Members of this Assembly accepted the Committee's proposals in the light of the facts and arguments contained in the Committee's report. In matter of this kind, Government should initiate legislation only after the leading and representative men of the community had discussed and arrived at some agreement or resolution among themselves, in regard to the necessity for legislation.

Dewan's reply.—Government consider that the important questions dealt with in the report of Mr. Govinda Pillai's Committee have been discussed enough. Government hope soon to pass orders on that report. Due weight will be given to the opinions expressed on the subject.

18. The desirability of a Regulation defining the law of marriage and succession among the Nanjanad Vellalas.

Mr. M. Subramonia Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram Taluk) submitted a petition signed by about 1,600 Nanjanad Vellalas, praying that Government might be pleased to appoint a Committee to enquire into the customs obtaining in their community, in regard to marriage, succession and inheritance, and to legislate on the matter.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

He said that, when this subject had been brought forward at the Third Session of the Assembly, the then Dewan had asked for a joint representation from the community and accordingly the Memorial was now submitted. The Member requested that Government might consider the Memorial sympathetically.

Dewan's reply.—Government will consider the matter carefully.

19. *Legislation on the Christian law of succession and inheritance. (Chiefly as to the rights of women).*

Mr. N. E. Varghese (Member, Travancore and Cochin Christian Association) urged the necessity of appointing a Commission to enquire into and report upon the various customs among the several sections of the Christian community in Travancore, relating to succession and inheritance, chiefly as to the rights of women.

Mr. Uthuppan Thomman (Member, Changanacheri Taluk) stated that there was no statute governing succession and inheritance among the various sections of the Christian community and that all disputes were being settled amicably without going to law. Nevertheless, the Member pointed out the necessity for the passing of a Regulation defining the rules relating to succession and inheritance among the Christians. Even though no disputes might arise in the matter of inheritance by sons, of their fathers' properties, disputes might arise in the case of women who might claim shares either in the properties of their husbands or of their fathers. As there was no definite law as to the rights of women in the matter of inheritance and succession, he suggested that a Conference might [illegible] discuss the subject and to submit a Bill defining the law of succession and inheritance among the Christian community.

Dewan:—Do you want Government to legislate?

Member:—It would be well if Government would address all the Christian Associations and ask them to frame a Bill for the consideration of Government.

The Dewan then invited the opinions of the other Christian Members of the Assembly, and they gave the following opinions :—

Mr. Jacob Kuriyan:—Our Associations are under Bishops, etc. It is rather difficult to get a Bill prepared by the Associations. The initiative should be taken by the Government.

Mr. K. M. Mamman Mappilla:—I wish to have a Committee to investigate the matter.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly